

the country into one great concern. Of all the trusts, that would be the most disastrous to business interests, and of all the burdens imposed by the trusts, that burden would be the largest. It may be that there are many people in this country who, like the Missourian, must be shown. It is not difficult to see that there are many railroad magnates who are willing to show them.

++

American Goods Abroad. American farm machinery is shipped by water 3,000 miles and by rail from 500 to 1,000 miles and sold to English and Scotch farmers for less than the American consumer must pay. Ocean and railroad charges must be added to the article sold the Englishman and the Scotchman and the machinery sold in competition with English machinery. If American implement men can pay all these freight bills and compete on the foreigner's soil, why should American consumers be deceived by their plea for protection against foreign competition?

++

Looks Like Aristocracy. The Editor of Burke's Peerage, London, says that he receives more inquiries about questions of precedence from the United States than he does from England. This is significant because it reveals a tendency toward the forms and flummeries of aristocracy, which is not only surprising but alarming. And yet how can we expect to have imperialism and plutocracy without the ceremony of the court. When once we leave the broad foundation of political equality, we become involved in a never-ending controversy over relative rank and comparative importance.

++

Interesting Discrimination. A commission should be appointed to definitely fix the amount of wealth one must possess before being classed as a kleptomaniac instead of a thief. The same commission could also fix the amount which a man must steal before becoming a Napoleon of finance instead of being a common embezzler. There is now so much leeway afforded that the public is often led to grievously wrong a man by calling him a thief or an embezzler when in truth he is either a kleptomaniac or a financier. This is because of not having a definite amount fixed from which to measure judgment. This appears to be one of the crying needs of the hour.

++

Torture Indefensible. The burning of another negro, this time in Kansas, again calls attention to the tendency to return to the cruelties and torture of former times. When a similar incident occurred a few weeks ago in Colorado, republican papers were quick to connect the occurrence with a fusion majority in the state. If retaliation were proper, democratic papers might refer to the republican majority rolled up in Kansas last November, but the subject is too serious to be made a theme for partisan controversy. Such atrocities are inexcusable, no matter when or where they are practiced. Lynch law must be condemned on general principles because it temporarily suspends government and its enforcement amid excitement and without a careful investigation of the evidence often leads to the doing of great injustice. The fact that good people, aroused to frenzy

by a horrible crime, sometimes take the law into their own hands, is not a justification, but simply shows that strong feeling will occasionally overmaster the reason of the best of men. Before lynching can be defended some tribunal must be authorized to decide when, under what circumstances and upon what evidence individual revenge should be substituted for the ordinary methods of administering justice. But even if lynching could be defended the addition of torture is inexcusable. It is an indulgence of passion, more hurtful to those who are guilty of it than to their victim. Instead of lessening crime, burning is apt to increase it by accustoming the people to cruelty and by lessening their respect for human life. Even those who in Kansas and elsewhere have joined in the mad cry for blood and exulted in the agonies of a human being will, in calm and dispassionate moments, condemn the act and deplore the weakness which temporarily condoned it.

An unanswerable argument against such a form of punishment is to be found in the fact that no legislative body in Christendom would deliberately provide for burning as a penalty for any crime.

++

Hazing Should be Stopped. The investigation of hazing at West Point ought to result in legislation which will forever put an end to a practice as indefensible as it is brutal. The indignities heaped upon new students of the lower classes are neither necessary for the education of the victims nor beneficial to those who find delight in wounding the feelings or the flesh of others. There is nothing courageous, manly or honorable about hazing and it is high time the authorities were laying down an inflexible rule on the subject. There is an old saying that a man is not fit to command until he learns to obey, and obedience to an anti-hazing law should be rigorously enforced.

The government should not send out men from West Point to be officers until they are far enough removed from barbarism to abandon the tortures which, according to the evidence, are sometimes inflicted at the academy.

++

An Expert Opinion. "Flipflops of an ex-President" is the undignified caption the Chicago Tribune places above an editorial dealing with the action of Mr. Benjamin Harrison. A scrutiny of the Chicago Tribune's files for several years past will reveal that it is an authority on flipflops. And by the same token, it is easy to see from present conditions that the same caption might well be saved upon the "live rack" for use a few years hence when the Chicago Tribune is again at liberty to say what it honestly believes.

++

At Least Four; Perhaps More. The British powers now prosecuting the Boer war may have reached the conclusion that the Boer is ubiquitous. The Boer has been so in the habit of appearing in the most unexpected places at the most inopportune times that the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is to be excused if he has long since reached this conclusion. But the Boer is not ubiquitous, and in this fact lies the proof that not less than four Boers were left under arms not later than January 7, for on the morning of

January 8 General Kitchener in one of his regular "I regret to state" dispatches admitted that on the night before his outposts were attacked simultaneously at four widely separated points. This could not have happened had there been but three Boers left fighting for their liberty. It must be admitted, therefore, that there are at least four Boers left in active service. And the indications are that four Boers can be active enough to make General Kitchener periodically regretful and cause him to imagine that he is fighting a foe possessed of some superhuman attributes.

++

A Good Old Cause. "Where is your good old cause now?" is the question that was put by republicans to democrats after the last election. Thomas Harrison was a lieutenant under Cromwell. He was condemned to death. He had been enthusiastic in his cause, firmly convinced of its righteousness. As Harrison walked to the scaffold, a bystander tauntingly asked, "Where is your good old cause now?" "It is right here," replied Harrison, striking his breast with his fist, "and I am about to seal it with my blood."

A mere political defeat, temporary, because it was unreasonable and unjust, can have no effect upon a righteous cause. The triumph of a political party that is committed to wrong policies does not disturb the principles nor destroy the cause, neither should it seriously discourage the man whose heart is in his cause.

Someone has said that defeat is merely education. No just cause was permanently injured by political defeat. The good cause as presented by the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform yet exists in the hearts of millions of the American people, and the time will come when that cause will be vindicated by the votes of the great majority.

++

Our Allies. If the re-organizers would spend more time opposing republican policies and less time denouncing the populists they would serve the cause better. The populists came to the help of the democratic party when the re-organizers abandoned it and the latter are not in a position to boast of superior attachment to democratic principles. What is true of the populists is also true of the silver republicans, who have for four years vied with the democrats in their efforts to advance the doctrines set forth in the democratic platform. It will be an unfortunate day for the democracy if the bolting element on the outside or the corporation element on the inside is able to so alter the party creed as to make it less acceptable to our populist and silver republican allies.

++

Revival that Revives. The newspapers of the country are filled with predictions made by clergymen to the effect that there is to be a great revival of religion at the beginning of the Twentieth century. An organized effort is to be made on this line. An excellent plan, but we also need a revival that will apply the principles of religion to everyday life. The Chinese heathen cannot obtain a very high idea of religion when he sees that that religion does not operate upon our army and does not protect the heathen from the looting process. We also need at home a revival that will prevent highway robbery by monopolies and wars for the purchase of trade.